Housing Problem

1527. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite considerable investments and efforts made in succesaive plan periods, the housing problem continues to be serious;

(b) if so, the details of investments made and the number of houses constructed during the Seventh Plan period in rural and urban areas respectively;

(c) the percentage of total budgetary allocation made for Housing during the ab ove period;

(d) the reasons for which people are still homless; and

(e) whether the Draft National Housing Policy addresses to the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Total investment in public and private sectors in housing during the Seventh Five Year Plan is estimated as approximately Rs. 31,458 crores out of which Rs. 2,458 crores was in the Public Sector. The percentage of allocation for housing to total plan investment in the 7th Five Year Plan is estimated to be 1·5%. During the 7th Plan period, the output of housing units by way of construction and upgradation under various schemes taken up by the Govt. agencies like housing boards or development authorities and financed by formal institutions like banks, cooperatives, etc. in the rural and urban areas is estimated to be 10 lakhs per annum but the precise breakup of urban and rura [illegible]

(d) The increasing rate of population growth, especially in larger urban areas and various constraints to increased supply of affordable shelter account for the absolutely homless families.

(e) The Draft National Housing Policy aims to assist all people, and in particular the houseless, the inadequately housed and the vulnerable section to secure for themselves affordable shelter through access to developed land, building meterials, finance and technology.

Filling up of vacant posts in various Government of India Presses

1528. SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 847 and 2440 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 1991 and 13th December, 1991 respectively and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken to fill up vacant posts of Copy Holders, Machine Attendents, Bindery Assistant by the concerned Authorities of Government Press, Minto Road, Ring Road and Faridabad;

(b) if so, the reasons for which these posts have been kept vacant for such a long time; and

(c) by when these posts are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) There is no vacant post of Machine Attendant and Bindery Assistant in Government of India Press Minto Road New Delhi. It has been decided to fill up vacancies of Copy Holder by way of transfer from the category of Compositors Grade II as the posts of Compositors are becoming redundant on modernisation of that Press. The vacancies in the grade of Machine Attendant, Bindery Assistant and Copy Holder in Government of India Press, Ring Road and Faridabad are not being filled up due to slated closure of four units, including three presses, in Calcutta & Shimla. Moreover, the post of Bindery Assistant has been upgraded from semi skilled Group 'D' post to skilled Group 'C' post . Hence the existing recruitment rules for Group 'D' semi skilled post of Bindery Assistant cannot be applied for filling up the vacancies, even by promotion.

Increase in Urban Population

1529. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the urban population in the country has been increasing rapidly and is likely to go up to 325 millions by the turn of the century;

(b) whether Government are ready with its Urban Settlement Policy; and

(c) if so, the details of the settlement planning envisaged by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Urban Development and Planning for Urban Areas is a State Subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to draw up suitable urbanisation strategies in keeping with the specific conditions in that State. The National Commission on Urbanisation (NCU) which was constituted by the Government of India in its report had recommended that adequate investment should be made in selected Growth Centres and Regions. For this purpose, they had identified 329 urban areas as Generators of Economic Momentums (GEMS) spread over 49 regions. The recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanisation (NCU) have been forwarded to the State Governments for appropriate action.

Abolition of octroi in Karnataka

1530. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Octroi was abolished in Karnataka in 1870, and in its place a new tax called Entry Tax was introduced.

(b) whether Government are aware that the Karnataka Government has resolved to re-introduce Octroi and abolish Entry Tax; and

(c) if so, what is the policy of Government regarding abolition of Octroi throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per the information available with this Ministry, the Octroi was abolished in Karnataka in April, 1979 and the same was replaced by surcharge on sales tax and motor vehicle tax and an Entry Tax on certain commodities.

(b) The Govt. of India is not aware about any such resolution of the Govt. of Karnataka regarding re-introduction of Octroi and abolition of Entry Tax as no such information has been received from the State Government in this regard.

(c) The levy of tax on entry of goods into a local area for consumption, use of sale therein falls at Entry No. 52 of State List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. In view of this it is for the States to look into the question of abolition of Octroi as the subject falls in the State List. However the question of Octroi was considered by a Committee constituted by this Ministry in pursuance to a Resolution passed in one of the meetings of the Central Council for Local Government and Urban Development. The Committee in its report recommended for partial abolition of Octroi. A copy of the report has been circulated to all the concerned State Governments/U.T. Administrations for taking necessary action.

Allotment of flats to slum dwellers

1531. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Slum Wing of DDA had invited applications from Slum dwellers for allotment of flats;

(b) if so, the details of allotments made in each draw locality-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that some flats were allotted on cash-down basis;

(d) whether Government propose to allot more flats in future on cash-down basis;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether DDA also propose to hold another draw under the scheme for allotment of flats on Hire-Purchase basis during current year ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not clearing the large waiting list of registered persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by Delhi Development Authority that two draws of 1264 and 92 flats were held in December 1988 and January, 1991 respectively. The details of allotment made in each draw locality-wise is given as under:—

1264 Flats—

1.	Madipur near DSIDC	552
2.	Madipur 'E' Block	320
3.	Jahangirpuri	136
4.	Sarai Rohilla	112